

**Child Fatality Review #08-10**  
**Region 1**  
**Grant County**

This three-year-old Hispanic female drowned.

**Case Overview**

This three-year-old child was visiting her grandmother and was left alone in the yard for approximately six to seven minutes. The grandmother's property was adjacent to an irrigation canal. A fence guarding the canal was removed. The deceased child's body was found in the irrigation canal downstream from her grandmother's home.

**Referral History**

On August 21, 2007, a police officer reported to CPS intake that on August 20, 2007, the deceased child left her house and was found wandering unsupervised throughout the neighborhood. The child was returned home that morning by the police officer. On August 21, 2007, the deceased child was again found wandering the neighborhood unsupervised. These incidents were investigated by a CPS social worker. The social worker worked with the mother to address how the child was getting outside unattended. The CPS investigation was closed with an unfounded finding.

On April 18, 2008, CPS intake received a report from law enforcement that the deceased child drowned in an irrigation canal. A CPS case was opened on the mother based in part on history of the child wandering away unsupervised. However, there is no information to indicate the child was in the mother's care at the time of her death. Law enforcement and the investigating CPS social worker determined this fatality was an accident. The CPS case was closed with an unfounded finding.

**Issues and Recommendations**

**Issue:** None.

**Recommendation:** None.